

42066/p

PRACTICAL REMARKS

ON

WEST INDIA DISEASES.

Non quæ mihi suggessit phantasiæ imaginatricis, temeritas, sed quæ phænomena præctica edocuere.

SYDENHAM



L O N D O N :

Printed for F. NEWBERRY, at the Corner of St. Paul's-
Church-Yard; and F. BLYTH, No, 87, Cornhill.

1776.

36017



P R E F A C E.

THE following remarks are published as a specimen of a larger work on the subject of *West-India diseases*, which the writer means to pursue, should he be encouraged to proceed; in that case, he will go on in the same manner to treat of all the acute disorders of that climate; after which the chronic diseases will naturally follow, to which he will add loose remarks, as well theoretical, as practical, on medicine in general, as practised in these countries, and on the medicines peculiar to them, and conclude the whole with a journal of the air and diseases, for a series of years, interspersed with cases as they occurred in practice; in his choice having no regard to the event, but to the information that may be derived equally from unfortunate as successful practice.

In respect to these remarks, he has only to say that they are drawn from the actual observation of the operations of nature in the various diseases he treats, uninfluenced by theory of any kind, and he hopes untinged by prejudice; if they are unfortunately at variance with the opinions of some writers of the present age; it is with the utmost deference to their judgment, that he finds himself bound by truth to relate what he has found successful practice, however
contradictory

contradictory it may be to the theoretical opinions of men, whose genius and ability, he must ever revere for having cleared the paths of science, and given encouragement to the study of nature.

The variation of the climate, will, perhaps, account for the difference necessary to be observed here, and in Europe, and will also probably account for the degrees of acuteness, which the same disease acquires, through heat or some other means not altogether agreeable to modern theory.

The writer claims no merit, but a strict adherence to truth; and if in some respects his practice may seem preposterous and inconsistent with many received opinions, he wishes only for the patience of his readers, till the conclusion of the work, when he will endeavour to draw such a general illustration from the premises, as he thinks consonant to reason, and the laws of the animal æconomy, so far as he may be supposed to understand them; avoiding every thought of controversy, and striving only to extend the empire of truth, reason, and nature. Happy indeed, if his labours may tend to the preservation of a single individual, or to the increase of his knowledge, which if he cannot hope, he will remain contented in his obscurity, and not add another worthless book to the number, which already crowds the medical library.



C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. I.

Introduction. — — Page 1

C H A P. II.

The same. — — — 11

C H A P. III.

Of Inflammatory Disorders. — 18

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Of Inflammations of the Breast. — 29

C H A P. V.

Of Inflammations of the Brain. — 39

C H A P. VI.

Of Inflammations of the Bowels. — 42

C H A P. VII.

Dry Belly Ach. — — 50

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

<i>Bilious Disorders.</i>	—	—	57
---------------------------	---	---	----

C H A P. IX.

<i>The Yellow Fever.</i>	—	—	72
--------------------------	---	---	----

C H A P. X.

<i>Putrid Bilious Fever.</i>	—	—	80
------------------------------	---	---	----

C H A P. XI.

<i>Remittent Fever.</i>	—	—	86
-------------------------	---	---	----

C H A P. XII.

<i>Bilious Diarrhæa.</i>	—	—	91
--------------------------	---	---	----

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

Cholera Morbus. — — 96

C H A P. XIV.

Coup de Soliel. — — 98

C H A P. XV.

Tetanus. — — 102

C H A P. XVI.

Latent Inflammatory Fever. — 112

C H A P. XVII.

The Small Pox. — — 116

I N T R O-

INTRODUCTION.

CHAP I.

IN treating of the diseases peculiar to any country, it may perhaps be necessary to premise something respecting the food of the inhabitants ;—a subject, though generally neglected by medical writers, of the highest consequence, as it seems not only to point out the peculiar *idiosyncrasy* of the patient, but as it gives to this native propensity various deviations, and in general directs the nature of diseases, or produces a healthy constitution, as the phrase is, from causes too little attended to.

To account particularly for the effects of the various kinds of food on the human frame, is possibly not within the reach of human art, as the tastes and antipathies of mankind are from Nature numerous, and from a neglect of her become innumerable : for was not this the case, medicine, valuable as it is, would be of little use ; as in temperance and exercise dwell the certain principles of health ; and to correct the want, or excess of these, is the medical art only required. Such is the nature of the aliments which necessity or custom have made general, that they require only a proper mixture, and moderate use, to make even themselves salutary to the constitution, in such a manner as almost to obviate disease of every kind, or at least weaken its effects ; and hence it is that a religious attention to the dietetic parts of medicine has obtained among the ancient legislators, who, ignorant of those chymical improvements, which modern vice and refinement have made necessary, adhered only
to

to such principles as nature and virtue pointed out; and which, carrying with them that reward which is ever their proper attendant, were a proof how far those doctrines, replete with health and enjoyment, participated of divine origin.

IT is an opinion almost universally received, that disease is rather the consequence of chance and inattention, than the necessary punishment which the Divinity in his mercy has, in this life bestowed, on our irregularity and neglect of those duties we owe both to ourselves and others. Hence it is that too often an unjust confidence is placed in the native strength of the constitution, while medicine is totally neglected: and again the effects of medicine are expected to be highly salutary, when administered against every degree of propriety, and counteracted by the general mode of living.

IN considering the nature of the food of the inhabitants of the tropical climates, observations, though drawn from a particular colony, will perhaps serve for most others, with some grains of allowance for the various degrees of cultivation, for of climate there is scarcely any.

THE people of these climates may from their mode of living be divided into three classes, from which perhaps may spring a fourth. But to avoid too minute disquisitions on this subject, it will be necessary to consider these only as general distinctions, having no respect to peculiar cases or dispositions, and formed from rules totally independent of sympathies and antipathies.

THE Europeans, who live in the tropical climates, bring with them that natural voracity of animal food, which the taste of our country indulges, together with that tense fibre, the natural production of their cooler and more northern climate. Hence it is
that

that they become more subject to such disorders as are the consequence of their alkaliescent food: but these predominate not so much in the early stage of their arrival, but operate in general on their constitution through a long residence in the country, and subject them to those disorders which are evidently the effect of that propensity to food they have been familiarized to, in a country much better adapted to assimilate it into salutary nourishment; but which here produces a slow and certain poison to the constitution, and which is often increased by those methods supposed to be capable of alleviating its effects.—Habituated and inured, as well to large quantities of the strongest animal food, as to qualify, as it is called, the instant effects on the stomach by spirituous, or old fermented liquors, which have almost acquired the strength of spirits, they preserve this practice with a most unremitting perseverance, even when the stomach and chylaporetic viscera have lost that
tone,

tone, and those digestive powers, which enabled them to conquer the pernicious effects of this aliment; and when the heat of the climate has brought on that *vis inertiae* ever the concomitant of relaxation.

IT is a remark, founded on truth, that stomachs, for a series of time accustomed to animal foods, are ill able to assimilate those of a vegetable nature; and indeed are not disposed to receive them, unless when a morbid state of the fluids gives that propensity to fruits and aceffant vegetables, which nature points out as the most rational means of relief. This circumstance, added to the desire most people have of gratifying the luxury of the palate, where animal alcalescent food enriched with aromatic fauces is the object of that propensity, tends to increase the secretion of the bile, and give it a degree of putrescence which makes it stimulate in the most powerful manner; and thence as it increases in quantity and stimulates,

lates, is the immediate cause of disorders highly dangerous.

THE lower class of Europeans, equally addicted to the same propensities, but indulging their appetites on food of a less healthy nature, viz. salted provisions, which have, perhaps, gone through the first stage from perfection to putrescence, and increasing their effects by a profuse indulgence in new rum, soon become the victims of bilious disorders, and obstructions of the viscera: or, if by dint of uncommon excellence of constitution, or some other good luck, they for a while weather the storm, it is only to die by inches of the most excruciating diseases, the effects of this mode of living.

THAT this indulgence in animal food in those climates must be productive of bilious and putrid disorders is too evident, and more particularly among such as are of a lax habit, and have a natural pre-disposition to diseases of this nature.

THE second class may be considered as such, who by a due mixture of both animal and vegetable food, and a degree of temperance in respect to liquors, are the most healthy; and this, by way of eminence, should have been placed first, as it consists chiefly of the ladies, and the natives of the country,—did not its situation respecting the other classes make it a dividing line between the different extremes. It is few of the natives of these climates, even though educated in Europe, that have an extraordinary propensity to animal food; and even such as use it with the greatest freedom ever temper it with the various fallads, fruits, and vegetable compounds of the country.—Their temperance in respect to drink is as remarkable as it is worthy the imitation of other climates; and to these causes, to which their activity and exercise should be added, the uncommon health and sprightliness they enjoy may be attributed.

THE third class consists chiefly of the negroes, whose diet is, for the most part, of the farinaceous vegetable kind, corrected by pepper, and some share of salted animal food, which they prefer in a state approaching to putrefaction; a taste which nature hath wisely implanted in them for the most salutary purposes, as it tends to promote the digestion and assimilation of their viscid vegetable food, which even *their* stomachs would not otherwise so readily dissolve.

To their food alone it is they are indebted for an exemption from the variety of diseases arising rather from a superabundance or acrimony of the bilious fluid; insomuch that acute bilious disorders are to be met with in no negroes, but such as from their *connections* in the families of white people indulge in luxury and idleness, and that kind of living which more properly place them in the first class.—On the other hand, though thus exempted from one species of disorders by
 B their

their food they seem well off, yet that very means is the cause of diseases of a more disagreeable and chronic kind; for hence are they subject to worms, and pains in the stomach; to diarrhœas, from the greenness of their food at one time of the year; and to constipations from its dryness at another; to the jaundice from obstructions of the biliary ducts by viscidities; to a variety of disorders from a deficiency of the biliary secretions; and to diseases produced by a viscid lentor of the blood. Their more acute disorders are rather to be attributed to the nature of their occupations, which expose them to every change and inclemency of the weather, and to the intemperance they so liberally indulge with spirituous liquors when in their power; and these disorders are nearly the same, as those of the camp when troops are in the field, though, probably, much more acute, and inclined to an inflammatory than putrid tendency, from the difference in their food.

C H A P. II.

THE countries which are situated within the Tropic of Cancer, are nearly similar as well in regard to heat, and other circumstances of climate, as to the periodical rains and variation of seasons peculiar to their situations; so that though the heat will never be found exactly the same throughout the whole northern Tropic on any given day; occasioned as much by the different faces of the countries, their degree of proximity to the sea, their being wild or cultivated, the approach or recess of the sun, at certain times of the year operating in different degrees respecting the various situations: yet it will, perhaps, be found, that the medium degree of heat throughout the year is much the same in all the countries in this part of the globe.

IT is demonstrably true, that the hot season approaches nearly at the same time in all tropical degrees of the northern hemisphere; differing only in point of time, according to the progress of the sun through the parallels of the latitudes of the different countries; that is, the heat being always greater in any given place when the sun is vertical, or in that parallel of latitude; unless when from certain contingent circumstances an uncommon heat is produced at unusual periods.— That the periodical rains, and the variation of seasons thereon consequent, also happen nearly at the same time through all this climate, is equally beyond doubt; and hence it is that a conclusion of the similarity of diseases, whether of the epidemic or endemial kind should obtain.

THE disorders of these, as well as all other countries, varying according to the particular seasons of the year, and the variation of these seasons peculiar to each year; it is
thought

thought the readiest method to take the beginning of the year, to examine the nature of such diseases as are peculiar to that season, to point out the methods that have been either successful or unfortunate; and at length, uniting a number of years, to compare the medical constitution, so as to form some judgment of the variety and succession of diseases thereby produced.

THE West-India year may be divided into four periods: the first, beginning in November with strong, north, and easterly winds, comes on with light rains and mist; till, the clouds being dispersed, it ends in dry, cool, settled weather, with north winds, continuing till April or May, when the second period or vernal rains begin. These generally continue six or eight weeks, and are succeeded by very hot dry weather, sometimes interspersed with light showers, till September, when the autumnal rains come on with great violence, which form
the

the fourth alteration in the year.—By this means there are two springs or seasons for planting and vegetation, which, as they are produced by different causes in the revolutions of nature, are also productive of diseases, differing often in their kind, always in their species. In considering the diseases under these different periods, the variety and nature of the seasons will of course come under observation; and as they mutually tend to elucidate each other, will require a more minute disquisition,

AFTER the autumnal rains have continued their usual time, which cannot be ascertained to any absolute period, each year having seasons in respect to violence and duration peculiar to itself; the weather becomes boisterous and cloudy, the coasts to the northward are beaten on by a rough and heavy sea, roaring with incessant noise, the wind shifting from east and by north to north, and sometimes, though seldom, to
the

the westward of the point. At this time the clouds brought from the American continent, and the islands to the northward, come flying to the West-India islands; some of them breaking in their passage load the first gales with fleet and small rain; the clouds adhering to the mountains of the islands form large banks of vapour, and continue to pour forth their fleety mist, and even heavy rain, if they chance to encounter the sea-breeze, or south easterly winds on that, *i. e.* south side of the islands; till at length the north winds having sufficient strength, and the season being truly formed, they are driven to the southward; and then comes on a succession of clear, serene weather, continually ventilated by the north and eastern breezes, spreading coolness and delight through this burning region.

AT the approach of this season, more especially if the winds continue long easterly, the diseases are generally of the inflammatory

matory kind, among such people as are of a sanguine athletic habit, varying in the severity of the attacks according rather to the situation of the houses of those seized, than almost any other contingency whatsoever: for it is remarkably true, that where the houses were situated on a dry soil, open to the sun and air on all sides, not encumbered by trees, which might form and retain a moist vapour about them, much fewer people were seized with the prevalent disorders of the season; and such as were, underwent them with less severity, and were much sooner and easier cured. On the other hand, the inhabitants of low, damp situations, surrounded with woods or plantain-trees, abounding in vapour, equally impervious to the rays of the sun, and the free circulation of air, suffer extremely, do not recover but by the greatest care and attention through a long illness, and very few escape the attack.

PERSONS of a more weak habit, and whose blood was in a state of impoverishment, were at this season attacked with severe agues and fevers; and what is very remarkable in some constitutions, they were annually at this period attacked with intermittents attended with a smart ague at the instant of the setting in of the north wind, though they had not been exposed to it, or even out of their chamber; and this while they were in perfect health, insomuch that they would pronounce the north wind to be set in before it was perceivable by other people.

C H A P. III.

OF INFLAMMATORY DISORDERS.

THOUGH inflammatory disorders of all kinds reign more generally predominant during this season of the year, yet one particular species which will be hereafter pointed out, is equally common throughout the whole year, viz. the latent inflammatory fever.---Pleuretic and peripneumonic diseases, in all their different states and combinations, rage at this season with uncommon violence, and are sometimes so very acute, that if relief is not given very early in the disorder by the most powerful evacuations, a few hours bring on mortification and death.

THE symptoms and nature of pleuretic and peripneumonic disorders are so well known, and so particularly described by medical writers, that it may be only necessary to observe, that the greater degree of acuteness of those complaints in this climate, make them require more speedy and powerful evacuations, than the same diseases in general do in Europe. These evacuations should be chiefly by the lancet, as purging more than is barely necessary to keep the body reasonably open, tends rather to the destruction of the patient's strength, than the alleviation of his disorder: unless where Nature points out her own method of relief, by bringing on a diarrhœa, which is very rare; and should sometimes be encouraged, but never too suddenly checked:—evacuations are rather to be avoided.

IT is highly necessary to observe, that intense heat and thirst, together with a rapid pulse, and flushed face and eyes, are by no

means signs of the greatest degree of inflammation. On the contrary, a dry husky skin, low depressed pulse, sense of universal oppression, great internal heat, a dullness, dimness, or sleepy-like look in the eyes, generally indicate the greatest degree of danger from the length of the disorder, and violence of the inflammation: for though at first there is little apparent or external heat, and the tongue not very foul, yet when, by lessening the quantity of blood, the heart and arteries can freely exert their propelling power, the fever becomes to the perception more acute, the skin grows very hot, the tongue by degrees becomes dry, parched, and covered with a brownish crust, the thirst prodigious; while, notwithstanding the seeming increase of all these symptoms, the pains, oppression, and sense of internal heat abate, the eyes become more lively; and as the evacuation by the lancet is increased, regain their wonted lustre.

INFLAMMATIONS of the more acute kinds, in these climates, may perhaps require a method of cure somewhat different from those in Europe, as they proceed with such an amazing rapidity, and so soon tend either to suppuration or mortification, either of which, as they commonly fall on the more vital parts, are equally fatal.

THESE disorders are seldom cured by any regular crisis; and even in those peripneumonic cases where expectoration might be promoted as a critical and salutary discharge, it is seldom to be forced, or even sought for, unless Nature makes the effort of her own accord; and even then it is too often accompanied with large quantities of matter from the suppuration of the lungs, and either ends in a phthisis pulmonalis, speedily fatal, or effectually destroys the constitution, except in very young patients, who sometimes get the better of it. Hence it would seem, that the general method of curing these disorders should

should be rather by resolution or extinction than crisis.——

ON the first attack of inflammatory disorders, particularly of the breast, the bleedings should not be too large, but frequently repeated, according to the violence of the symptoms and viscosity of the blood; which last is sometimes so great as, when cold, to have a toughness almost equal to leather.*— The rising of the pulse, together with the instant ease this evacuation produces, are a sufficient proof of the expediency of repeating it; and though the patient may appear weak, and unwilling to submit to evacuations he may think improper, yet the assurance of its

* In these inflammatory cases their acuteness may be judged of by the uncommon sense of internal heat, which is always proportionate to the severity of the disorder, as well as by the time which the blood takes to cool, from which last a prognostic may be framed of the length, danger, or fatality of the disease. In several cases where the blood took above an hour to cool; the patients died of the disease on the 11th, 13th, or 15th days, matter being formed in the lungs, or some other vital part.

being

being a certain means of relief, as well as the dangerous consequences which flow from a neglect of this useful practice, will sufficiently vindicate its propriety: and, though it will sometimes happen, where the oppression is very great, that the first or second bleeding may not have so sudden an effect as might be expected, yet this will be no reason to omit such repetitions as the symptoms may indicate.

A VERY modern doctrine having advanced, that the viscid, tough, or buffy appearance of the surface of the blood, is no absolute criterion to distinguish inflammatory disorders, it may be necessary to premise that these appearances have ever been considered by the present *writer* as true and undoubted marks of the nature of those disorders; and that in the course of a very long and extensive practice he has never in one instance been deceived in the conclusions he drew from this appearance of that fluid. As
this

this is not a proper place to enter into the physiological merits of that opinion, he shall reserve his reasons for thinking otherwise to some future occasion.

IF bleeding in acute inflammatory cases, whether partial or universal, is allowed to be of the highest utility, as well as most absolutely necessary; and as this method combined with antiphlogistic medicines, and such as tend to dissolve the viscidities of the coagulable lymph, is, perhaps, the most reasonable, and only certain method of cure in these cases; so any thing tending to increase the stimulus, and heat of the fever, must hurry on its fatal and rapid progress. Hence arises the danger of the early application of blisters in those disorders of whatsoever kind they may be, that is, whether partial or general: and this opinion is founded on a conviction springing from, I wish I could not add, fatal experience, and actual observation. The theoretical impropriety of this practice

is

is glaring, and the practical consequences too often horrid. If some few, in slight cases, have escaped both the disease, and the practitioner, many, very many, have fallen a sacrifice, but to which the event has too plainly shewn.

THE propriety and expedience of the anti-phlogistic method in general inflammations, will appear more clearly, in the relation of particular inflammations of any of the viscera ; and which, though the same in kind, differ in their species, distinguishable by the symptoms consequent to the particular affection of the part, and the particular vital motions which may be obstructed and weakened thereby. Notwithstanding which, the *cause* being considered as the same, though the effect may be apparently different, according to the particular viscus, which may chance to be the seat of the disorder, will frequently admit of the same general treatment, to be deviated from only as the nature and exigency

of the particular specific symptoms may require.

To illustrate, therefore, the consequence of the practice, which consists in removing these diseases, rather by *resolution* than *crisis*, it may be right to point out the effects of a contrary practice, not from supposed cases, the wanton offspring of a luxuriant imagination, but from actual fact, meaning to cast an odium on no one, however ignorant, but culling the errors of presumption and quackery, as beacons to the unwary, to warn them of the danger which may be the consequence of too great a regard to theoretical and speculative conjecture, rather founded on fiction, than drawn from truth and observation; while those from whose errors they are to profit, remain in an obscurity, which it would favour of illiberality to remove.—This method may perhaps be of some use, in as much as it may be of greater advantage to point out the means of avoiding direct evil, than at
once

once drawing the line of propriety and rectitude ; as the tendency to wrong seems to be a natural propensity arising from the weakness and imperfection of human nature.

HAVING already pointed out the difference of the diseases between the white people, and negroes, considered as occasioned, by the difference of their food and occupations, it may be necessary to mention that in the general account of disorders, they are considered indiscriminately, but when we come to particular cases, these will be properly distinguished ; the judicious observer will no doubt remark the proper distinctions even in a general description, for though these various circumstances have most undoubtedly an effect on the constitution, so as to make it more susceptible of certain diseases, yet that can by no means imply the impossibility of the like symptoms, and being, *cæteris paribus*, equally contingent to the whole race of mankind in these climates.

H E R E, being on the general treatment of inflammatory disorders, before particular inflammations are considered, it may be necessary to mention that the practice was altered from time to time, either as improvement offered, or as the effects of the former practice were observed not to be so speedily and perfectly salutary as could be wished: therefore the most improved method will conclude the remarks on this kind of disorders, and the methods in which they gradually rose in the practitioners mind, and succeeded in his practice, will come more naturally in that place where the seasons and diseases are treated journaliter, where also the particular cases will occur.

C H A P. IV.

OF INFLAMMATIONS OF THE BREAST.

THESE are either where the lungs themselves, or where the membrane that envelopes, or is contiguous to them, is the seat of the disorder ; in the first the cough, or endeavour to expel the phlegm, which obstructs the bronchial vessels, together with the load and pain of respiration, added to the general signs of inflammation, are the leading and distinguishing symptoms ; for the costiveness, flushing of the face, rapid or depressed pulse, inflamed or languid eyes, furred tongue, heat, &c. can be considered only as general symptoms of inflammations ; while those particularly attendant on the part diseased,

eased, appear to make the specific difference that distinguishes the name, rather than the nature of the disorder.

THE inflammation of the membranes, contiguous to the lungs, are not, in general, attended with any cough, nor is the pain so deep or obtuse, as when the lungs themselves are inflamed, but rather acute; and the difficulty of respiration arises not from the laborious effort, as it were, against a dead weight, but from the sharp pain attendant on the expansion of the lungs by inspiration, called a stitch.—Thus likewise the cough, in inflammations of the lungs, is possibly produced by the heat of the part impacting and coagulating the fluid, which is secreted through the internal surface of this viscus, to lubricate the tender vessels, and defend them from the effects of the air inhaled; which fluid becoming thus hard, not only hinders that free expansion and contraction which its more liquid state will readily admit, but
also

also irritates and obstructs the circulation, so as to bring on that effort to expell the impacted matter, called a cough.

WHEN the contiguous membranes only are inflamed, the lungs suffer no inconvenience but what is produced by the heat of the fever, the vicinity to the part inflamed, and the general sympathy which subsists in all the human frame: and hence it is, if they partake of the disease, it is in a much lower degree; unless when like fire, from neglect, or erroneous practice, the inflammation is communicated to the adjacent parts, which is generally the fore-runner of the most fatal event: it sometimes happens that from repeated or ill cured inflammations, the lungs are so perfectly obstructed as to make a return of the disorder fatal, in spite of all the efforts of art, as the following case may explain. A woman aged thirty, had been ill five days, with a severe pain in the right side, between the breast and the shoulder blade; she had
very

32 OF INFLAMMATIONS OF THE BREAST.

very languid heavy eyes; her tongue covered with a thick brown scurf, skin dry and parched, great heat, pulse low and oppressed, frequent tickling cough, great thirst, costive, in the morning of the sixth day when I first saw her.—R. Pulv. Febrifug. Jacob. gr. v. Rhæi ʒj M. sumat sanguine misso, et mittatur sanguis a ʒvj: the powder purged five-times, and brought a moisture on the skin, pulse fuller and more raised, heat increased; at noon repetatur venæsectio. Afternoon the pulse somewhat mended, pain easier, cough increased, both bloods highly inflamed, and covered with a thick pleuretic buff. R. Sal. Nitr. Pulv. Camphor. a gr v. Calomel ppt. gr. i. M. fiant tales chartulas xii. sumat i. 2da vel tertia quaque hora.—7th day the pains remitted, pulse softer, and all the symptoms abated. Repetantur pulveres, omisso mercurio. R. Sal Corn. Cerv. ʒj. Tinct. Thebaic. gtt. xx. Aq. Fontan. ʒviij. Sach. Alb. q. s. M. sumat cochlearia dua, omni hora.—Slept a little, eyes more clear, but still languid. 8th. fever
and

and all the bad symptoms returned: in the morning took six oz. of blood, repeated it at noon with the volatile mixture, still worse in the evening—R. Pulv. Febrif. Jacob. gr. v. f^t tales iv. fumat. i. secunda quaque hora, pro re nata.—9th. Repeated the bleeding and powders, still the same; at night repeated the bleeding, and six powders of camphor and nitre, with two grains of calomel in each. 10th. Eyes clear, slept last night much better, cough abated, pulse soft, and reasonably strong appetite; repeated the powders with one grain of calomel, no heat; at night the symptoms returned, repeat the bleeding to 8 oz.—11th. Fever still continues, repeat the bleeding and powders with calomel.—12th. Repeat the bleeding to 4 oz.—At night repeat the mercurial powders and volatile mixture.—13th. The fever still on, all other symptoms abated, repeat the bleeding and mixture; at noon perfectly easy, free of fever and all other complaints, good appetite, clear eyes, and thought out of danger; eat heartily of light food.

food.—14th. Slept well last night, waked in the morning seemingly well and in high spirits; at eight o'clock suddenly seized speechless, and died at noon. On opening the body the intestines throughout seemed free from inflammation, or any other preternatural appearance, but in some places adhering to the peritoneum and each other, the spleen somewhat enlarged, and also adhering; the stomach much distended with wind, and very large; the liver of a clay colour, but no other uncommon appearance about it, or the gall bladder; the anterior and inferior part of the right lobe of the lungs very hard, impacted, and of a glandular substance, of a light clay or ash colour, adhering to the pleura, by a glutinous matter, which on separation seemed like jelly; the pleura, between the ribs, marbled and purplish, one mortified spot on the posterior part of this lobe, and about half a pint of bloody serum in this cavity of the thorax. The left lobe had one large, and several small mortified spots on its
posterior

posterior part, and the cavity on that side contained near a pint of bloody serum. In a man, who recovered from an inflammation of the lungs, and as I was informed had taken a quantity of bark, in the decline of the disorder, there was found the same glandular appearance, containing in its center a cyst full of matter, resembling curds and whey, but of a yellowish cast. This man fell into a dropfy shortly after getting well of the fever, he always complained of a severe pain about the region of the heart, and great difficulty of breathing, though on opening his body there was no other preter-natural appearance than that already mentioned,

THE greatest number of these disorders happen between the months of November and March, and the method of treating them at first by large and repeated bleedings, with large quantities of nitre and the volatile salts, although it seldom failed of success, was so tedious, so effectually weakened the consti-

tution, and the patients took such a long time to recover any tolerable degree of strength, that it was necessary to endeavour at some more speedy and salutary means of cure; this intention was tolerably well answered by the use of the powders of nitre, camphor, and calomel, already mentioned, but the quantity of mercury necessary to effectuate the cure, seldom failed to affect the mouth where the disease was any thing acute, and so effectually dissolved the blood as sometimes to threaten a dropsy, besides that the soreness of the mouth delayed the recovery of the patients strength, by disabling them from eating; in this situation recourse was had to the following medicine, R. Sal. Nitr. Gum. Camphor \bar{a} gr. v. Merc. Precip. rub. optime levigat. gr. i. M. Of this powder five grains was given every two or three hours, sometimes oftener, according to the strength of the patient, and the acuteness of the disorder, and with the most happy and advantageous effects: It never once had any bad effect
on

on the stomach, the mercury being so thoroughly divided; in common cases it was very speedy and certain in its effects, totally superseding the necessity of bleeding, and reducing the number of bleedings in the most acute cases, to two or three; and it was very rarely indeed that it affected the mouth, or operated with any violence, and where the latter happened, so much the more speedy was the cure; in short, in the space of a few years, it has been given to many hundred patients, with inflammatory diseases of various species as an attendant, with the utmost advantage, without producing one evil effect; in some particular constitutions indeed, where the stomach was unable to retain the medicine, from a disposition to reject the camphor, it was necessary to substitute some inert powder, such as *crabs eyes, or mag-

* Whatever effect crabs eyes or magnesia may of themselves have as medicines, they cannot be supposed to be entirely inert, mixed with a neutral metallic salt, such as the Mer. ppt. rub. as the nauseous acid of the salt, will certainly forsake the mercury to join the alkaline earth.

nesia,

nesia, in lieu of that medicine, and for the purpose of having the mercury sufficiently divided, and in this manner it was also attended with the same happy effects, a sufficient proof that the advantages were derived from the mercury solely.

THE custom among some people to give bark on the decline of all fevers, seems to be highly preposterous, and in this case directly against the intention of cure, and perhaps a means of laying the foundation of other disorders, if not bringing on a return of the present; for when that is thoroughly conquered, there is not the least dread of any other fever coming on immediately after.

C H A P. V.

OF INFLAMMATIONS OF THE BRAIN.

EUROPEAN tradesmen, of a stout athlétic habit, by working in the sun are often subject to the most violent inflammatory disorders, which generally attack them on a sudden in the heat of the day; they fall down much oppressed, and become instantly delirious, the face very red, flushed and inflamed, the eyes ready to start out of the head, a strong throbbing of the temporal and carotid arteries, an oppression and sickness at stomach, and intense pain in the head; if evacuations by bleeding and purging are not liberally and speedily made use of, the disease

disease soon becomes fatal, the delirium increases, the respiration becomes laborious, stupor, convulsions, and death ensue. On the other hand, from these evacuations, every symptom diminishes, the fever is soon overcome, and health restored. When this inflammation happens from the Coup de Soleil, it is often at the instant fatal, as I have had some opportunities to observe; and where that is not the case, the symptoms come on with a violence and malignity, much superior to those of the disorder, from heat and exercise alone. It sometimes happens that people of a bilious temperament, are seized in this manner, when if there should be any quantity of bile in the first passages, the disorder is highly aggravated, and becomes more complex; after the first bleeding, the blood is not only covered with a pleuretic buff, but this having a yellowish tincture from the extracted bile, puts on the appearance of pus itself.

IN this case the acrimony of the bile is to be corrected, as well as the inflammation to be subdued; for the effect of the bilious matter on the brain is highly dangerous, and here is an opportunity of exerting skill with the most salutary effects: It would seem almost needless to say how highly prejudicial blistering must be in cases of this kind, was it not a matter of absolute fact, that there are persons ignorant enough to have recourse to such a practice, which has aggravated the symptoms in the most cruel degree, and left the patient no other resource for relief but in a speedy death.

C H A P. VI.

OF INFLAMMATIONS OF THE BOWELS.

AMONG all the inflammatory disorders, those which are situated among the intestines seem to be the most obscure and indeterminate; for as the abdominal viscera are liable to many disorders attended with pain and costiveness, so it is easy to mistake those pains which arise from stimulating matter pent up in the guts, or produced by affections of the nerves weakening their contractile power for inflammatory complaints, though unfortunately it has too often happened quite contrary, and inflammatory fatally mistaken for nervous or cholicky pains; and as the method of treatment in these cases is entirely different,

different, the consequences of such errors have been dreadful.

THE similitude in respect to costiveness, and the situation of the pain in the cholica pictonum of this country, or dry belly ach, as it is called, and inflammations of the bowels, is so great, that superficial observers very readily confound them, and the distinguishing symptoms are sometimes so obscure, that recourse must be had to other means, than bare external observation, to determine with any absolute degree of certainty between them.

THE inflammation of the bowels comes on with a lassitude and costiveness, a circumscribed pain about the region of the navel; and this, as it is at first slight, is little attended to, till the costiveness continuing, and the disease gaining ground, the pain increases, is constant though not very acute; there is a great thirst, the stomach as fast as it becomes loaded with liquors taken to allay it, rejects

F 2

them,

them, till at length irritated by the frequent vomiting when overloaded, and participating of the sympathetic inflammation, a constant reaching and rejection of every thing comes on; the pulse is low, weak, and depressed, the countenance pinched and pallid, the skin dry and husky, but not hot, and the patient is sensible of an internal burning heat, that no efforts of his own can allay; this heat and pain make him incessantly restless, and moving his situation, aiming at every possible means to gain the least momentary relief, which constantly eludes his efforts; the disease increases, the pain becomes more violent, and every new position seems to be moving into a greater state of pain; if no means are yet used to remove the disease, he sinks from fatigue into a restless disturbed and convulsive sleep; at length the pain suddenly abates, the bowels perhaps relax, he has a stool, and sinking gradually, dies of a mortification.

THE indications of cure here are by bleeding to relieve the pain, and lessen the degree of inflammation; the sudden and instant effect of bleeding in this case is surprising, ease directly following it, the pulse rising, and the symptoms abating, unless where the disease has been of some continuance, when the evacuations must be proportioned to the nature and obstinacy of the complaints; the stomach, unless very early in the disease, rejects all liquid medicines, and therefore calomel is generally had recourse to, which sometimes has a good effect, as it will often remain on the stomach when lighter and more bulky medicines are rejected; though a perseverance in, or too liberal use of this medicine, seldom fails to affect the mouth, for which reason it should not be too frequently or liberally used; the attenuating powder with the mercurius præcipitatus is also in this case administered with the most happy effects, as is also James's powder, which,
from

46 OF INFLAMMATIONS OF THE BOWELS.

from its form, is particularly adapted to this complaint, as it commonly remains on the stomach, or where it does not bring up with it putrid bile, or other disagreeable matter, which by its irritation tended to increase the nausea, and sympathetic inflammation, when it is retained it seldom fails of giving relief, by increasing all the natural secretions, particularly that by stool. There are many cases where this medicine shares the fate of others, in being rejected by the stomach, without having any good effect, but these are generally fatal; and such as have come under my observation have been when medical assistance hath been too much neglected, till the disease became superior to art.

IN the most early stages of this disease, the hardness of the pulse and tongue, which is covered with a yellowish furr, are the truest and most distinguishing signs of inflammation; but even these are often wanting, and
recourse

recourse must be had to the appearance of the blood, which whatever theory may insinuate, is a never failing criterion of the nature of the disorder; for when this fluid gives, by its buffy pleuretic appearance, the necessary indications of inflammation, it clearly distinguishes the disease from those other disorders of the bowels, which are sometimes mistaken for this, and points out the propriety of treating it according to the general method of subduing inflammatory complaints, having at the same time particular attention, that the medicines should ever be directed in such a manner as to pass off by stool, rather than any other way, for obvious reasons. The purpose of the mercurial powders being chiefly to resist and subdue the inflammation, they cannot be always depended upon as purgatives; as soon therefore as the stomach can retain it, or even where the symptoms are very violent, before that, a weak solution of salts, frequently and constantly repeated, will
be

be found of the most surprising efficacy ; for though it may be often thrown up, yet at length it will stimulate the bowels to a discharge, which should be assisted with clysters, as well to lubricate the passage for the expulsion of the indurated fœces, as by their gentle stimulus, to solicit that discharge. Where the pain and reaching is very acute, bleeding is of great advantage, though the relief it brings is of little duration, yet being generally succeeded by a short slumber, the stomach by that means retains the medicine given at that time. As soon as ever the medicines begin to purge freely, the stomach recovers its power of retention, the pains insensibly decrease, and by continuing this discharge by an artificial diarrhœa, giving at the same time the powerful attenuants, while the least appearance of the disorder remains, and until the patient complains of a foreness on the common integuments of the belly, the disease is conquered ; as this last is a certain
sign

sign of the inflammation being overcome, and that the vessels are endeavouring again to recover their proper tone and elasticity. After recovery from this disorder, it is highly necessary that the patients body be kept open, that he wear a flannel waistcoat, avoid vegetable food, and use gentle exercise on horseback, to prevent a relapse.



C H A P. VII.

D R Y B E L L Y A C H.

THOUGH other disorders of the bowels, which in their symptoms are like those which spring from an inflammatory cause, cannot with propriety be ranked among them, yet for this very reason, perhaps, they should be placed together, the more clearly to point out the difference that really subsists between them, and the different method of cure.

THE similitude between the inflammation of the bowels, and the dry belly ach, having been already taken notice of, it is necessary to observe, that the bilious cholic
also,

also, a disorder different from them both, has been mistaken sometimes for the one, and sometimes for the other; the first of these disorders will therefore here come under consideration, and the other hereafter.

THE dry belly ach, which raged formerly with the most savage fierceness, and seemed to be the endemic disorder of the climate, at present is seldom to be seen, and still more rarely those living monuments of its ravages, which were so common through the West-India islands, deprived of the use of their hands and feet, and carrying in their persons and countenances the most cruel marks of its severity. This happy decay of so terrible a disorder, seems to be owing to various causes, which have combined to its destruction; the country being more clear of wood than formerly, is less productive of noxious and stagnant vapours, and enjoying a free circulation of air, that fluid is more pure and salubrious. The European manners beco-

ming more predominant, the people no longer gorge themselves with large quantities of strong four punch, made with new rum, and unripe limes, which was formerly the case, nor do they go in general so lightly clad; to which last cause more especially this disorder seems to have been owing.

THE first approach of this disorder, is announced by an obstinate costiveness, accompanied with slight flying pains, throughout the whole region of the belly, which are of very short duration, and not frequent in their return; in this case, as indeed, in all disorders of the belly, attended with pain, recourse is had, too often, to ardent spirits, or hot stimulating liquors of some kind or other, under a notion of dispelling the wind, and removing a cholic; or if these destructive methods are not followed, the disorder is neglected in hopes of its going off; the costiveness continues, the pain becomes more acute, and at length constant, confining itself to no particular

cular part, a sickness at stomach succeeds, and with the nausea, and vomiting, the pain is aggravated: in this situation every attempt to purge is vain, fluids will not remain on the stomach, and medicines of a more solid form, though retained, have no other effect than adding to the cruel severity of the pain; the thirst is insatiate, the tongue, though dry and husky, is not of that brown colour which obtains in cases of inflammation, the pulse more soft, though quick and feverish, and the eyes rather partaking of a savage wildness, from the severity of the pain, than of languor; the costiveness attended by as obstinate a retention of urine, the belly very much puffed, though its muscles feel hard and contracted.

WHEN from these symptoms the disorder is truly indicated, recourse must be had to opiates, and of these pills made with crude opium, and as much soap as will make it readily dissolve in the stomach, should be given
with

with a liberal hand, till the pain ceases, which effect will not be readily produced, but by a very considerable quantity of the medicine, and that in large and repeated doses ; it sometimes happens, that a stool immediately succeeds the cessation of the pain, but whether or not the patient must be purged very freely, and the diarrhœa kept up till the disorder is intirely conquered, interposing such doses of the opiate between whiles as the degree of pain may indicate ; the warm bath at the time of administering the opiate will contribute much to increase its effect of alleviating the pain ; and during the administration of purgative gentle clysters, will be productive of advantage.

W H E R E the pain still continues notwithstanding the purging, or where, as it sometimes happens, when the disorder has been long neglected, it has frequently returned, or attacks old persons, the intestines being in some measure become paralytic, purging medicines

medicines fail of their effect; a blister applied to the region of the navel, operates, like a charm, removing the pain and obstruction, exhilarating the spirits, and by stimulating the intestines, seldom fails to procure a stool, as soon as it rises, and always makes the bowels more pervious and obedient to the effect of purging medicines.

PEOPLE who are constitutionally subject to this disorder in these climates, should wear a thin flannel waistcoat next the skin, abstain altogether from the use of wine, cyder, and four drinks, use constant exercise, and the cold bath when in health; on their recovery they should take flowers of sulphur, and the mercurial laxative pills, in very small quantities daily, drink malt liquor diluted, or water, ride much on horseback, and at no time suffer themselves to continue costive, or without a stool thirty hours together.

THE paralytic disorders that are consequent to the belly-ach, either from the severity, frequency or continuance of that disease, are of so obstinate a nature as to admit of no cure hitherto discovered; the nerves seeming to have lost their power, so far as it is productive of muscular exertion, the extensor muscles of the hands and feet, and often of the legs and arms, being intirely without use, and the balls of the thumbs totally decayed and shrunk.—The electrical shock, frictions, and the bracing of a cold climate, together with such exercise as the strength of the body will admit, gradually increased and constantly persevered in, bid the fairest for relief, and if they cannot effect a cure will certainly restore that degree of health and strength, which may in some measure alleviate this unfortunate disorder.

C H A P. VIII.

BILIOUS DISORDERS.

THE intense heat of the weather, which immediately precedes and follows the autumnal rains, produces a variety of disorders, of the bilious kind; at first in the form of regular bilious intermittents, and afterwards altering their type into various anomalous appearances, chiefly regulated by the peculiar nature of the season, and sometimes extending themselves far into the following year, particularly if the accustomed breezes are late in their approach. There is one symptom which seems peculiar to this kind of disorders, which is the lassitude immediately previous to its first appearance, and which seems the concomitant of that relaxation,

tion, to which the disorder may in some measure be attributed.

ABOUT the beginning of August, if the weather is hot and dry, and more especially if there have been severe rains in June and July as has sometimes been the case, people who chiefly subsist on animal food are subject to severe agues, followed by a short but smart fit of the fever, and in the paroxysm vomit large quantities of bile; the fever, if neglected, becomes more frequent and acute, than at the first attack, and at length continued, and highly dangerous: When the attack is early in the season, powerful evacuations will often remove the disorder, by expelling the bile both ways, thus stopping the fever without the use of the bark; but in the later stages of this disorder, or as the season advances, it will not be so readily overcome, but often continues with great obstinacy, giving way to nothing but powerful and repeated evacuations, after which the bark may be administered

nistered with great propriety and effect, which is not the case, where the bile has not been thoroughly expelled; for should that be neglected, the quantity of bark necessary to stop the fever, must be very great, and where it has that effect, which is very rarely, it too often lays the foundation for more fatal disorders.—Though disorders of this kind are more naturally peculiar to the autumnal season, yet they are nevertheless to be found in some constitutions throughout the year; and are to be distinguished from common and vernal intermittents, as well by the lassitude as by a bitter taste in the mouth, a want of appetite, often previous to the attack, an oppression on the stomach, and sense of tightness across the breast, and a peculiar whiteness of the tongue, as well as an uncommon pallor of the countenance; and in some particular cases, though very rarely in the beginning of the season, a yellowish cast in the whites of the eyes. The disorder even in this early and milder stage is often attended with a de-

gree of danger, where it falls on the intemperate, whose habit of living has perhaps been the cause of previous obstruction; and this more especially, if the fever has been neglected till the third access, about which time it is apt to form a continual fever not readily removed.

As the season advances the effects of the heat are more generally felt, and the bilious disorders become more acute, the fevers more irregular, and tending more powerfully to putrefaction: it is observable that the type of the bilious fever is no two years exactly the same, deviating in its symptoms and appearance, and often requiring methods of treatment in some respects different, though still reducible to the same general principles.

IN the month of September the Autumnal rains coming on with great force, many people complained of pains in their right side and stomach, with other symptoms of obstruction,

struction, or inflammation in the hepatic vessels; such as were of a sanguine habit, on the first attack were seized with an unusual lassitude, heaviness over the eyes, oppression on the præcordia, pain in the stomach, and a sensation of obtuse pain, like a weight on the right side; the tongue was of a whitish ash colour, the eyes glassy, heavy and watery, the skin warm, soft, and feeling gluey; and they all had a slow and oppressed pulse.

ON the first day of the disorder they considered themselves as neither sick or well, and therefore, in general, had no such early recourse to medical assistance as they ought. On the following day the fever advanced with great rapidity, and no small degree of heat, accompanied with an intense thirst, incessant reaching, acute pains in the region of the stomach and liver, shooting through them by starts at irregular intervals, a great flushing in the face, inflamed eyes, severe head-ach, and
a swell-

a swelling and tension on the right side. By the efforts to reach, large quantities of bile were brought up, but attended with the most cruel pains, cold sweats, fainting, and unless soon relieved, death itself.

As very few people sought advice before the severe access of the fever, no medicines could be administered for the purpose of prevention. In this state of the fever, about twelve hours after the access, while the face was covered with a suffusion from the efforts of reaching, bleeding produced instant but not durable relief, for though the violence of the symptoms abated, yet they soon returned with their former force, and might be somewhat alleviated by a second bleeding. This evacuation procured only small relief, and could not with propriety be repeated above twice in general, or three times in the most sanguine athletic constitutions; for by an indulgence in it to a greater degree, brought on uncommon weakness, very suddenly without

out the least additional alteration of the symptoms. When the blood was cold, it abounded in a yellowish serum, the curd was red, soft and shining, without the least appearance of inflammation. Hence it became necessary to seek other means of relief, than from bleeding. Hence the propriety of opiates to assuage the pains and spasms in the stomach, and to allay the vomiting; and hence emollient and laxative clysters with eccoprotic medicines, were highly serviceable to expel the bile, and to moderate the heat of the fever; for as soon as by these means an artificial diarrhæa could be brought on, the pains began to abate; and by continuing this evacuation, the disease gradually declined. To this intention mercurials also powerfully contributed, whether given internally, or applied to the hepatic region in the form of liniments, as well by tending to increase the necessary evacuations, as by removing the tension and obstruction from the vessel of the liver; and it is not unworthy of observation, that

that the hepatic region always continued weak and tender, after the fever was intirely conquered, so as ever to be affected in a greater or less degree by every fever, of whatsoever kind afterwards.

SOME patients who from their own obstinacy would not submit to, and patiently go through this method of cure, or who were treated in a different manner, though they were relieved from the violence of the fever, still continued sick, complaining of a heavy and continued pain on the right side, and lingering with a constant hectic glow, till matter, being formed in the parenchymatous substance of the liver, they died.

SUCH persons as were of a weaker temperament, and either relaxed from their inactivity, or the heat of the climate, were attacked in a much gentler manner; their eyes were yellow, but not very languid; the appetite lost, the spirits depressed, and the fever
weak

weak and intermitting ; in the paroxysm of the fever they had a vomiting of bile, sometimes green, sometimes yellow, and not commonly brown, or black ; in the remission of the fever the pains ceased ; but on the return of the fever, as its strength increased, they became quite despondent, even wishing for death. In the beginning of this disease antimonials operated like a charm, for by their means the bile being rejected *αὐτὸ καίκαται*, the fever went off, and they were suddenly restored to strength, appetite, and hilarity of mind ; but too often this sudden restoration was productive of the worst consequences, for their rashness, intemperance, and want of resolution to follow the true means of establishing their health, produced relapses, from which, as they were already weakened, they did not easily recover : but when this joyful relief was procured, if they continued in the use of gentle mercurial alteratives and mild laxatives, to carry off the bile, as it again began to accumulate together, with moderate

I

exercise,

exercise, and the cold bath to restore the tone of the bowels, they most wonderfully recovered their health and strength.

SUCH were the happy effects of this method of cure, which seemed to be pointed out by nature herself; but on the other hand, when, on the first access, during the inflammatory state of the disorder, if the fever in consequence of the evacuations, intermitted, it was treated as common intermittents, and attempted to be cured by the application of the Peruvian bark, it is with horror I recollect the consequences; for with indignation have I seen this noble remedy in the hands of ignorance and presumption produce more fatal effects than the worst of poisons; and realize the fable of those African poisons, said to be so slow, certain and infallible in their effects. It is from a diligent observation and constant study of nature alone, through her various and complicated operations, that the principles of diseases are to be investigated; and

not

not from a headlong practice, guided by chance, and supported by ignorance.

ON the application of the bark in the inflammatory hæpatitis, by which name I would mean to discriminate the first species described, the fever declined, the flushing in the face went off, and the severe pains decreased; but in their place was left a deadly paleness in the countenance, a hectic glow, an obtuse pain in the right side, a loss of appetite, an aversion to exercise, costiveness, and a frequent tickling cough. Soon after came on frequent rigors, an inability to lay down, but on the back, every symptom of a forming abscess, and at length, though slowly, death.

IN the other species, peculiar to those of a more delicate frame, the symptoms were not severe, unless the fever was checked by the bark; but in that case it was attended with the like fatal effect, and no perseverance in

the bark could mitigate the hectic glow which ensued. These patients, in general, despairing of relief from medicine, fled to devotions, and the change of air, in search of relief, but alas how futile their hopes.—*Nempe lateri beret lethalis arundo* :—their last effort seeking health in a change of climate, carried with it an equal fatality, for the disease by that time had acquired too great strength to yield to such means. They languished daily, their strength diminished, the disease increased; rigors, the messengers of approaching fate, came on. Hope only now remained, when death with a friendly hand delivered them from the cruelty of their pains, and the fallacy of their expectations.

IN the month of December, a sea-faring man of a strong athletic habit, after working very hard, was seized with severe pains and a violent fever; unaccustomed to sickness he neglected his disorder, till his strength being decayed by frequent returns of the fever, he

at

at length sought assistance ; his eyes were very yellow, and he complained of a slight pain in his stomach ; he had taken two or three doses of salts, which had not operated freely ; he was ordered to take the bark on the next intermission, the febrile paroxysms went off, but instead of them he had a constant thirst and hectic glow, he lost his rest and his appetite, and in vain had recourse to variety of medicines ; by degrees a pain in the side came on, a loathing of food, and an aversion to his usual employments and diversions, &c. I first saw him the April following : at this time he complained of a constant severe, but obtuse pain on his right side, shooting from the angle formed by the last of the true ribs with the vertebræ, towards his stomach ; his eyes were dull, tongue white, skin dry and warm, pulse quick and thready, frequent cough, most obstinate costiveness, universal lassitude, constant thirst, and inability to sleep ; he had had two or three rigors ; and a considerable hardness was to be felt on the

convex

convex part of the liver just below the ribs. Some blood being taken in a wine glass instead of serum, there was a most viscid glue, and the curd subsided to the bottom in the form of a blackish red powder: in this situation he languished a fortnight, and then the abscess of the liver forcing its way through the duodenum, he discharged a large quantity of pus mixed with bile, and died.

A DISTILLER was seized with a violent hepatic flux, and his disorder being neglected, he was much weakened by the discharge; but by the use of opiates and small doses of ipecacuanha, the flux was stopped; he then complained of a pain in the right side, and three days afterwards died. On opening his body, the liver was found to extend itself most voluminously over the abdomen, and was of a colour inclining to purple, stretching itself so much to the left side as to cover the spleen, and on the right it forced up the diaphragm so much as seemingly to obstruct
all

all respiration in that lobe of the lungs; there were throughout its substance a number of tubercles, containing crude pus, and the lungs were interspersed with livid spots; there was no other remarkable appearance.

A GENTLEMAN was seized with the autumnal bilious intermittent fever, but from an aversion to medicine would take no advice; a slight diarrhæa coming on he lost the fever; but shortly after complained of an obtuse pain in his right side shooting towards the stomach and point of the shoulder, together with a hectic, a lump on the side, and other symptoms of the hæpatitis. By making use of a liniment of quicksilver, killed in mutton suet, to which was added as much camphor dissolved in oil as there was of mercury, *i. e.* one sixth of the whole, in the quantity of three drachms every day, keeping his body open with gentle laxatives, and avoiding cold for fear of salivation, he was in three weeks perfectly cured, and has not for two years had any return of the complaint.

C H A P. IX.

THE YELLOW FEVER.

THE yellow fever, or what the French call *Le Maladie de Siam*, is generally esteemed as the most fatal of all the acute fevers of the bilious kind. This disorder has chiefly for its subjects such people as are lately come from Europe, sanguine, strong, and in high health ; and from the uncommon rapidity of its progress, and the neglect too frequent on its first attack, it is always dangerous, and often fatal. As there is scarcely an instance where it attacks persons who are inured to the climate, and as the strangers who are seized with it have reason to attribute its cause to too violent exercise in the heat of the sun,

fun, assisted by an excess in drinking from the thirst this exercise occasions, there is great reason to think, whatever may have been asserted, that it is not a contagious* disorder; but merely the effect of violent heat, exalting the bilious and other juices, to a putrefactive stimulus, which must rapidly increase as the fever continues.

THE day preceding the attack of this fever the patient complains of heaviness, lassitude, oppression, want of appetite, and is always costive, though he does not think himself ill, and is not aware of the impending danger; on the access of the fever, which is at

* The notion of putrid bilious fevers, being infectious, seems to have obtained from the circumstance of sailors, and such other people as have been confined to hot, close and filthy situations, which combining with the nature of the climate, highly exalt, and even produce putrid disorders, to which such persons as breathe in contaminated air become subject; but this would seem not to be any particular contagion, as the small pox, and other eruptive diseases are; since putrid bilious disorders, exactly similar in their symptoms and event, may be produced in these climates, by the inhalation of any putrid effluvia whatsoever.

once very violent, and sometimes preceded by rigors, he is seized with a severe head ach, a great heaviness over the eyes, tightness across the breast, as if bound by a rope, disagreeable sickness at stomach; his pulse is strong and rapid, skin dry and extremely hot, eyes watery and inflamed, face flushed, tongue covered with a thick white crust, thirst intense, and a violent throbbing of the carotid arteries: Presently comes on an incessant reaching, which causes the stomach instantly to reject whatever is drank, together with great quantities of yellow and porraceous bile: in this state, if no remedies are made use of, the patient continues about twenty four hours, the symptoms becoming gradually more aggravated; when at length from the violent efforts of the stomach he frequently faints; then a yellowness is discovered over the neck and breast, he becomes delirious, at times comatose, and as often, for a short space, exerting himself; the fever still intensely hot; the bile he brings up is

now

now of the colour of coffee grounds, his tongue quite black, dry, and sticking to the roof of his mouth; the yellowness becomes universal, and approaching to lividity; his eyes glassy and sunk; a bleeding at the nose, and frequently from the eyes and ears, comes on; his pulse sinks, hiccoughs, cold sweats, convulsions, coma and death close the scene.

IMMEDIATELY on the access of this fever, it is necessary to take away a large quantity of blood, which may be once or twice repeated, if the acuteness of the fever indicates it; but it is generally observable that few patients will bear more than a second bleeding, this seeming not to be a proper evacuation, after the most early stage of the disorder, as it then tends rather to weaken than relieve the patient. From the incessant reaching, it has been a practice to give vomits of the antimonial kind in this disorder, but they serve rather to increase the irritation of the stomach, than relieve by the bilious matter they may

discharge ; the stomach being sufficiently stimulated by the disease to reject every thing it receives : It may, however, be necessary to wash out the stomach with the camomile tea, or warm water, and immediately after to begin with some gentle laxative medicine, which must be constantly repeated, however it may be rejected, till a purging is brought on : The fœtor of this discharge, and the quantity of bile which is evacuated, is almost incredible ; and as the purging is kept up, the fever begins to decline, and at length to intermit, when the bark must be instantly exhibited with the greatest expedition, and by every possible means, to lessen the violence of the next return of the fever. To allay the intense thirst, there is nothing so grateful and effectual as the cooling acid, and accessant fruits of the country, such as oranges, granadillo, water melons, &c. or liquors mixed with their juices, actuated with the spirits of vitriol, which also assist to promote the discharge downwards. If the purging
medicines

medicines are given in antiseptic decoctions, they not only tend to strengthen the stomach and bowels, and resist the putrefaction, but also make the subsequent intermission more perfect : when the vomiting is incessant, and attended with an hiccough, as is sometimes the case, and the thirst very intense, nothing gives such instant relief as immersing the patient in a warm bath, to which nitre and vinegar may be added, as tending by their antiseptic virtue to resist the putrescence. This application operates like a charm, instantly allaying the hiccough and reaching, abating the thirst, relaxing the skin, bringing on a gentle perspiration, and often procuring a short sleep, by a general remission of the severity of the symptoms. In the administration of the bark, it may be proper to add rhubarb, in order to keep up the necessary laxity of the belly ; but it well deserves remark, that in all bilious disorders, where the bile has not been sufficiently evacuated, the bark seldom fails to purge ; and hence, perhaps, it
might

might be a judicious practice to give the decoction of the bark with laxatives, in the more early stages of this disorder, and during the heighth of the fever, for sometimes the bark is known to purge with great certainty and effect; and practitioners in these climates are often, in putrid cases, obliged to give that medicine, when the fever is very high, and find their practice attended with the greatest success. As soon as the fever is stopped by these means, and the patient is able to go out, gentle exercise, and especially the use of the cold bath, contribute greatly to the restoration of his strength, which without these will return very slowly. Having observed that few people in this disorder can bear bleeding more than twice, without suffering in their strength, I cannot omit mentioning the case of a gentleman, who upon a very severe attack of this fever was liberally bled; his attendants neglecting him, the orifice burst, and he lost upwards of an hundred ounces of blood before it was discovered,

covered, at which time, he was in a profound sleep, the bed floating with his blood; his fever was gone, he found himself perfectly refreshed, and though he took no medicine whatever, had not the least return of the disorder, or any complaint but weakness from the great loss of blood; and it is probable that to this accident, he was indebted for his life. May not this case justify bleeding even to faintness in the earliest stage of this fever.

C H A P. X.

PUTRID BILIOUS FEVER.

THE putrid bilious fever differs from the yellow fever, as well in the manner of its attack, as in the nature of its symptoms, which though at first not so apparently violent, are nevertheless in their progress equally fatal. On the first approach of this fever there are frequent flushings and rigors, with a very irregular and rather weak pulse; the skin soft, clammy and flaccid; frequent cold sweats, great langor, severe pain in the head and back, oppression at the breast; sometimes, though rarely, bilious vomiting, but neither severe or incessant; the eyes heavy and languid, and the tongue of a light
ash

ash colour, without any considerable thirst ; the heat of the fever, and the frequency of the pulse not great, unless in very sanguine and plethoric habits, and in all cases frequently remitting : In this situation, the patient generally remains twenty four hours, when a regular intermission comes on, which continues six or eight hours, at which period the fever returns with aggravated symptoms ; the pain in the head and back, the oppression at the breast become more acute, the vomiting severer, the langor increases, the patient often faints, seems comatose, and the cold sweats are more profuse and frequent ; towards the third day there is a slight remission of all the symptoms, the fever seems to be gone, the pulse weak and languid, and the patient perfectly sensible, complaining rather from thirst and internal weakness, than pain ; when a vomiting like corrupted blood mixed with purulent matter comes on, which is the immediate fore-runner of death.

IN this, as well as the yellow fever, the great intention is to evacuate the putrid bilious matter by stool, and at the same time resist the tendency to putrefaction as much as possible, and for this purpose a decoction of the columbo-root, or gentian and camomile flowers, with sal polychrest. answers admirably. As the stools increase, the severity of the symptoms abate, till a clear and perfect intermission comes on; when the bark can be given with the happiest effect, especially if united with snake-root, and large quantities of Madeira wine, which in this disorder is the most excellent of all cordials, and most truly assists nature to resist the putrefactive tendency. On the next return of the fever, the purging medicine may be continued, and if the langor is very considerable, the camphorated julep, with elixir of vitriol, will be highly efficacious. After the second intermission, if the bark has been liberally administered, whatever returns of the fever may happen, will only be very slight, and of the
type

type of a common intermittent, which a continuance of the bark will readily remove. In strong and sanguine habits, where the pain in the head and back are uncommonly severe, bleeding has been of some service, but in general should be avoided, as the patients sink surprizingly under the lancet, and are not easily brought up afterwards to a proper degree of strength.

AUTUMNAL intermittents of the bilious kind, often from neglect, or bad management, are apt to degenerate into continual fevers, which gradually become putrid: In several cases where the putrescence has been far advanced, and the extremities even cold and livid, the patient has been saved by large quantities of Madeira wine, warmed with spices, even as much as half a gallon within the hour, immersing him at the same time into the hot antiseptic bath, till the circulation and heat of the extremities returned, and afterwards giving the bark in medicine every

half hour. In any of these bilious cases, it is evidently against every intention of cure to apply blisters; in the early stages of the disease they can only tend to aggravate the more acute symptoms, and in the later ones to hasten and increase the general putrefaction. This putrid fever is particularly epidemical among sailors, if the season of their arrival happens to be wet; and in the great number of these people, that the various practitioners who have attended them blistered, there is but one instance where the patient recovered, and that was by totally altering the mode of practice when he was supposed to be dying; the proper distinction between the effect of the treatment, and that of the disorder, not having been made. True it is that in such cases of bilious intermittents, where they have degenerated into continual fevers, and afterwards by proper treatment, recovered their former type, and the patient wearied out with the disorder, has refused medicine, blistering has been productive of the highest advantage,

advantage, rousing the patient from his languor, stimulating the vital powers to a salutary exertion, making the intermissions longer, clearer and more distinct, and dissipating the symptomatic yellowness of the skin. But in any of these cases, where that practice has been expedient and successful, there has not been the least observable tendency to putrefaction.

C H A P. XI.

R E M I T T E N T F E V E R.

THE nervous, remittent, or malignant fever, as it may be called, though it does not display the least indication of a redundancy, or uncommon acrimony of the bile, or seems by any means to participate of the nature of bilious disorders, has nevertheless been placed under that head, to which its being of the putrid kind may have contributed. As bilious fevers in general of the more acute kinds, have for their subjects such people as are not inured to the climate; so this on the other hand only attacks those who have been long used to it, and seems chiefly

chiefly consequent to some great exertion or anxiety of mind.

PRECEDING the immediate attack of this fever, the patient is languid, heavy, and costive, sensible of an oppression he cannot readily account for, troubled with frequent sighing, listlessness and anxiety, with a respiration in some degree laborious; on the access of the fever he complains of a severe pain in the head, the labour in respiration and sighing increase, together with an uncommon dejection of spirits. This fever seldom lasts above twenty hours, when a most clear and perfect intermission coming on, every symptom but the sighing and dejection of spirits goes off: It is too generally in this stage neglected till the second access of the fever, which returns at the distance of about eighteen hours, with all the symptoms highly aggravated; the face becomes flushed, the eyes inflamed, the tongue rough and covered with a dark brown crust; the pulse quick, throbbing,

bing, and tremulous, the respiration still more laborious. At the distance of about twelve hours, there is a short remission of all the symptoms, which however soon return with redoubled violence; to the labour of the respiration, which still increases, and to the constant sighing, is now added a frequent hiccough, the eyes become quite red, and begin to fix; the pulse more quick and tremulous, a subfultus tendinum, which is very quick and frequent comes on, with every symptom of a violent oppression of the brain, which on the beginning of the fourth day from the attack, is followed by death.

THE very rapid progress of this disorder, and the favourable appearance of the first intermission, are too often productive of the most fatal consequences, as I never remember a single instance of the patient recovering, after the second access of the fever, where the essential relief was not given at first. Blisters, and what are called nervous medicines,

cines, as well as the warmer antiseptics, in the earlier stages, seemed to hurry on the patients death with greater velocity ; and indeed in the few cases where other methods of treatment might have given some chance, those means having been followed, under a notion of the disease being a nervous fever, have precluded it.

THIS fever is chiefly to be distinguished by the anxiety and sighing, which attend it, and can only be relieved in its most early stages : This is to be effected first by a gentle laxative to cleanse out the bowels, after that by the camphorated julep, with elixir of vitriol, which seems to relieve the brain, till the fever goes off, when the bark and elixir of vitriol given as frequently and in as large doses as the stomach can admit, will, in a great measure, mitigate the subsequent returns of the fever ; in each of the intermissions, this method must be pursued as giving the greatest certainty of success. If the second return of

the fever is not so violent as the first, it will be followed by an intermission, though not so long as the former, and every means must be then taken to maintain the advantage already gained; the depression of spirits and sighing still continue, and if the intermissions should shorten or grow more obscure, which will not be the case if the bark has been diligently administered, blisters may be applied after the third intermission, with the happiest effect, as they make the intermissions more clear, and the administration of the bark more effectual.

C H A P. XII.

B I L I O U S D I A R R H Æ A.

IN some constitutions, though rarely, the autumnal disorders of the bilious kind, make their first appearance in the form of a diarrhæa; and this is sometimes the case, when intermittents being checked by the bark, before the compleat expulsion of the bile, nature makes this effort to relieve herself of the load which fills the hepatic vessels. This disorder is seldom attended with any fever, though sometimes found joined to a regular intermittent; but always with a kind of an hectic glow, a disagreeable bitterness in the mouth, nausea, yellowness in the eyes, severe cholicky pains and griping, and sometimes

tenesmus. If recourse is had to opiates and astringents, the heat increases to a considerable degree, together with the tenesmus and nausea, the thirst becomes insatiable, and the disorder gradually degenerates into a dysentery of the most putrid and obstinate kind. As this disorder can only be considered as an effort of nature, to prevent the severity of a fever, by the expulsion of the acrid bile, the intention of cure is so clearly pointed out, that it would be thought impossible to mistake it. At the first approach an antimonial vomit will effectually cleanse out the stomach, and expel vast quantity of bile, and medicines of this kind seldom fail also to produce a stool or two afterwards, which must be kept up by some gentle laxative, till the putrid bilious matter is expelled. The good effects of this artificial diarrhæa, in relieving the morbid one, are soon felt by an alleviation of the pains, and a general mitigation of all the symptoms: but as soon as this discharge is suffered to cease, the thirst, nausea, griping, and

and tenesmus return; though should the purging have continued long enough to have expelled the greater part of the acrid colluvius, small doses of ipecacuanha frequently repeated never fail to compleat the cure. As this disease is evidently of the putrid kind, all animal broths should be avoided; and above all, that almost universal practice of loading the patients with spiced wine and opiates; the nourishment should be of the vegetable kind only, the drinks acid or accessant, and in great abundance; and to this intent the acid and accessant fruits of the country highly contribute, insomuch that it is a practice among the negroes to give a wine glass full of lime juice, mixed with a spoonful of common salt, in this disorder, which purges almost instantly, removes the griping, and being repeated, seldom fails to cure. The use of opiates in general tends to increase, or at least protract the disorder, and they are seldom necessary to procure sleep, as the artificial diarrhæa, by a mitigation of
the

the pain, especially if it has been long and severe, will produce that effect.

As dysenteries are only more aggravated degrees of the same disorder, and very rarely original themselves, they will generally give way to the same method of treatment; though if the putrefactive tendency runs high, they will require the addition of the most powerful antiseptics, in decoctions, of which such as the bark, columbo-root, &c. the laxatives medicines should be administered; and here it is observable, that the liberal use of the vegetable acids prove of greater advantage than that of the mineral ones. On the recovery, exercise on horseback, and the cold bath, are most highly beneficial. The general advantages arising from a free admission, and circulation of cool air, as well as cleanliness, are too well known in hot climates to need any arguments to enforce them; and this coolness will be much increased, especially at noon, when the sun is intensely hot,

hot, and there is no air stirring, if pails of water and vinegar are placed about the room, as the exhalation from them produces the most refreshing coolness, and impregnates the air with some antiseptic qualities, without any risque or danger whatsoever. This is a practice that will be found advantageous in all ardent, bilious, and putrid fevers, and which will be most sensibly felt during the time of the most intense heat and calm.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

CHOLERA MORBUS.

THE cholera morbus may also with justice be classed among bilious disorders, as it seems chiefly to be caused by the acrimony of the bilious and other intestinal fluids. It generally comes on with a smart head ach, slight fever and faintness, and is immediately followed by a most violent vomiting and purging, which continuing, bring on cold sweats, faintings, and such a prostration of strength and spirits, as must terminate in death, if not speedily prevented. Immediately on the attack, the stomach should be well washed out with large and repeated draughts of warm water, or some such mild fluid, which

as

as the purging and vomiting continues, must be changed for warm Sangree made with Madeira wine. This drink, however grateful to the palate, will not long remain on the stomach at first, but by repeating the draughts it is at length retained, the vomiting and purging cease, the patient breaks out into a profuse sweat and falls asleep; when he wakes, he finds himself intirely quit of the disorder, and much refreshed, though reduced to a degree of weakness scarce credible to those who have not suffered under the disorder themselves, considering the short time it lasts. It is very rarely that this method will fail of success, but should the violence of the disorder be such as not to admit of these means, the administration of opiates with confect. cardiac. after the stomach has been well washed out, with the use of the warm bath, instantly check the disease, and the sympathy between the skin, and the intestines, in these cases, is uncommonly evident from the salutary effects of this application.

C H A P. XIV.

C O U P D E S O L I E L.

THERE is scarce any of the acute disorders of this climate more fatal than that fever which is the effect of the Coup de Soliel; and indeed it is often fatal at the instant, when other concurrent circumstances give a tendency to plethora, or inflammation, and more especially where the stroke falls upon persons in a state of intoxication, or given to the immoderate use of strong liquors. This disease, fatal and common as it is, has been very little attended to by practitioners; though no person that ever resided even for a short time in a hot climate, can have omitted to observe that riding in the heat of the day,

day, and even at times when there is a very refreshing breeze, it has on a sudden become as hot as if issuing from the mouth of an heated oven; and that this blast has produced a langor which would have been insupportable, was it not soon passed: The degrees of heat and langor which attend these veins of, I had almost said ignited air, are a tolerable criterion of their nearness to the concentrated ray of the sun, from which they acquire their heat, and which is itself the immediate cause of that fever, termed the coup de soliel; for the ray concentrated as through the focus of a burning glass, and perhaps highly superior in heat, as being on a larger scale, if it falls on the head by the sudden expansion of the fluids in the vessels of the brain, particularly if these vessels happen to be charged with the fumes of spirituous liquors, causes instant death.

A DISORDER somewhat similar to this, is caused by the intense heat of the vapour in

cane pieces at noon, and this more especially after rain, where the canes are very thick and impervious to the circulation of the air, which causes are productive of the same effects as the immediate stroke of the sun, though in a less violent degree.

THE intention of cure, in these cases, is by liberal bleeding to lessen the quantity of the blood, and the impetus of the circulation, gentle purgatives, and large draughts of cooling fluids; and after the first bleeding, bathing the head with cold vinegar and water, is of no small advantage. After the first evacuations, by bleeding and purging, there is no medicine so effectually contributes to remove the fever, as repeated doses of James's powder; after which, on the first remission, the bark will not fail of the most salutary effects.

THIS disorder, when properly treated in the beginning, is no more than a simple ardent

dent fever, though of the most acute kind ; but being neglected, if it is not violent enough to kill in the first 24 hours, it degenerates into a fever of the most malignant kind, from which patients very rarely recover, and when they do it is from a very tedious illness of 17 or 21 days in its duration. After the symptoms of malignity appear, bleeding is highly improper, though the evacuation by gentle laxatives may be serviceable ; after which cool air, tepid baths to relax the skin, camphorated juleps, gentle diaphoretics, particularly to fever powders, and cooling drinks, are of the highest advantage to remove the delirium and moderate the fever.

WHERE these are exhibited with success, the fever is terminated by a profound sleep, which restores the patient to his health and senses ; when that is not the case, the delirium increases, attended with constant watchfulness, frequent phrensy, laborious respiration, subfultus tendinum, hiccough, stupor and death.

C H A P. XV.

T E T A N U S.

THE tetanus, or universal spasm, has been divided into several species, which have taken their names from the muscular parts, more immediately considered as the seat of the disorder, such as the improsthothonos, opisthothonos, &c. But as these disorders terminate in the same manner when fatal, whether they began in the muscles of the jaw, the anterior or posterior muscles of the body, or any others, these names seem to be founding a distinction, where there is no difference. There are in reality two species of this disorder, distinguished by the one being original, and perhaps epidemic; and the other symptomatic,

symptomatic, or arising from some external injury.

THESE disorders, however different in their cause and immediate symptoms on the first attack, are perfectly similar in their progress throughout, though the symptomatic tetanus yields more readily to medicine than the epidemic species, from which the instances of recovery are very rare indeed.

ON the approach of the original tetanus, the patient is seized with a slight fever, an universal pain and anxiety, a sense of obstruction or numbness in the muscles of the back of the neck, and a constant watchfulness. Soon after the attack, the muscles of the nose and lips become convulsed, the countenance pinched and pallid, the eyes glassy, but at the same time fixed with a kind of wild stare; the spasmus cynicus increases, and by degrees the spasm extends itself, running from the neck all down the spine, and
extending

extending by degrees through all the muscles of the body. It is generally the second or third day before the lower jaw becomes fixed, after which the spasm becomes more severe by fits, in which the muscles are exerted in a most violent and horrid manner for a short time, when the fit ceases, but the spasm still continues universal; in which state it would be thought that the muscles were at their utmost stretch of rigidity, did not the frequent returns of the fit give a melancholy proof of the contrary. The eyes and countenance during the time of these fits, have an appearance that is dreadful beyond description; at length the eyes become fixed, opake and lifeless; when soon after, in one of the fits, death happily comes to the relief of the miserable object. In this disorder, no information can be gathered from the appearance of the blood, as it is in all respects the same as that drawn in the most perfect state of health, neither is any relief whatsoever procured by this evacuation; the application of
blisters

blisters is equally ineffectual; for though they rise as well as can be wished, they give no manner of relief, but perhaps by their irritation, are rather hurtful, but of this there is no certainty, as the patient is unable to speak from the spasm, and often insensible through the whole course of the disorder. Some patients who have recovered thought themselves worse during the stimulation of the blisters, but this authority is rather doubtful.

IN fact, evacuations of any kind have not been attended with the least relief; notwithstanding which it may be highly proper and necessary to empty the intestines by a smart purge at the commencement of the disorder. One great happiness attending this disease, is that it seems to effect only the external muscles, as those immediately subservient to deglutition, and the vital motions are not in the least affected; and hence it is that throughout the whole disorder, medicines may be administered,

ministered, if they can once be got beyond the barrier of the teeth. The effect of nervous medicines in general are very weak in this disease, and even musk, which is so powerful in slighter affections of the nerves, is here of very little, if any, service.

MERCURIAL frictions have been strongly recommended, but though I have repeatedly tried them, it never has been with the least success, though the ointment was remarkably strong and applied in very large quantities. Whether this might be attributed to the acuteness of the disorder, the short time the patients lived, or the inefficacy of the medicine, is doubtful, though I am apt to incline to the latter opinion, as I once had a patient seized with the original or epidemic tetanus, while he was under a course of mercury for a confirmed pox. This patient was a young man about 23 years of age, having gone out and got cold his gums became sore, on which account he was confined to the hospital, and
purged

purged till the forenefs went off, when he began again his alterative courfe, with the decoction of the woods.

ABOUT a fortnight after this he was feized with a fever, and fpasmus cynicus, quickly fucceeded by an univerfal fpasm; on the firft approach of the diforder, it was attributed to cold, while under the effect of the mercury, for this happened before the doctrine of the efficacy of mercurials in fpasmodic affections was broached; he therefore began by taking a fmart purge, which operated effectually; as foon as that was over he began with large dofes of mufk, from a fcruple to half a drachm, very frequently repeated, his jaws not yet being clofed, infomuch that in 24 hours he took near an ounce of mufk in grain, and this without the leaft appearance of advantage; he was bled and blistered on the thighs, immerfed in a warm bath, and then began to take laudanum in large quantities, and as frequently as he could be prevail-

ed on to swallow it; of this in one day he took above twenty ounces, without the least abatement of the spasm or diminution of the watchfulness that attended the disorder, though it gave a liveliness to his eyes that promised success.

By a constant and liberal perseverance in this remedy, the spasms were on the 9th day relaxed, and he slept about two hours; at length, however, by going on in the same manner, the returns of the disorder were less severe, he slept four or five hours at a time, and the fits became periodical in the evening only, except one day only when leaving off his opiate they returned, and continued till the medicine procured the usual relief, when by the administration of the bark in the intermissions, and keeping up the effect of the opiate, the disorder was entirely conquered on the 25th day.

THERE was no doubt in this case of the disorder being truly original, as the patient
was

was not in the way of any external injury, neither did he before or after complain of any; besides that, three people in his neighbourhood were on the same day seized with the same disorder; how they were treated I know not, but they all died. Was mercury a specific in this disease, it must be equally so whether used externally or internally, and it is possible that the medicine which by specific virtues can cure a disease, may, in some measure, prevent it. It is also imagined that mercurials are by no means friendly to the nerves, and that this is a disorder of those chords cannot be doubted, though of them and their affections we are as yet very ignorant. The symptomatic tetanus or spasm, may arise from a variety of external injuries; from wounds, wrenches, sprains, &c. and more frequently from lacerations: In these cases, if a toe or finger is the part, instant amputation may be of service; if any other part speedy dilation, so as to set all the tense muscular, tendinous or nervous fibres, which
may

may be affected, perfectly at liberty : There is one cause of this disorder where the knife cannot safely be used, and that is in the case of thorns, nails, &c. running into the soles of the feet, which is very common among negroes, and as frequently fatal ; for the spasm being a symptomatic disorder, and not coming on instantly, and the wound seeming of no consequence, it is too often neglected, till the patient is beyond the reach of art. In cases of this kind, the foot should be immediately held over the steam of boiling water, and continued there constantly till it is near well, the relaxing quality of this vapor effectually preventing the spasm, as has been experienced in many hundred instances. The most certain remedy, in these cases, is a liberal and constant use of opiates, which seldom fails to cure in this species of the disorder, if administered in a sufficient quantity : some patients having taken in the course of the disorder above four ounces of solid opium without the least ill effect whatever ; and
it

it is remarkable, that this remedy has not in the most astonishing doses, ever procured sleep in the earlier stages of the disorder, or those effects which anodynes have in all other cases.

THIS practice, the only one that hath hitherto been effectual, very often fails, especially if the external injury hath been very violent, or the patient neglected, as has been seen in the case of a man who sprained his great toe in jumping off a house, where he was pursued; where notwithstanding the toe was taken off at the upper joint, and large doses of musk and opium exhibited, the patient died. From a variety of concurrent circumstances, it is imagined that the electric shock might be of singular service in this complaint. Certain it is, that throwing very cold water over the patient, and then instantly plunging him into the warm bath, hath produced a momentary relaxation of the spasm, without any ill effect whatsoever.

C H A P. XIV.

LATENT INFLAMMATORY FEVER.

THE latent inflammatory fever would seem to be somewhat inclinable to a chronic nature, from the length of its duration, before it produces any fatal effects, though in its last stage it is very acute. This disorder is principally incident to negroes, and is by them termed the inward fever; it is attended with no considerable degree of heat, or quickness of the pulse, which, on the contrary, is rather low and depressed; the skin is uncommonly dry and husky, the eyes dim, heavy and languid; the back part of the tongue covered with a thick brown scurf; they

they complain sometimes of a pain in the stomach, at other times of a pain all over their skin, as they call it, always of considerable thirst, sense of internal heat, langor and want of appetite. As this disorder is generally interpreted into laziness, it hence is often attended with the most fatal consequences, as, to a superficial observer, there seems to be no real disease; therefore it is common either to drive the wretches to work, or to put a blister on them by way of punishment, by which means the inflammation is often fixed on some vital part and becomes fatal, the patients dying of an universal mortification of the viscera. The most certain criteria of this disease, to those who from practical habits cannot properly distinguish it, are from the effects of bleeding, and the appearances of the blood when taken away; the benefit of the first is evident from the raising of the pulse, and the relief it instantly gives; and the appearances

P of

of the latter, give the highest marks of inflammation, from the extreme sizyness of the coagulable lymph, the subsiding of the colorific matter, and the length of time the blood takes to cool. The method of treatment, in this disorder, differs not in the least from that necessary in the most acute inflammatory disorders, which in this case may be pursued with the most happy effect.

ON the other hand, where a warm regimen is used, or blisters applied, which aggravates the disorder, or where the patients are driven out and neglected, they pine away by degrees and die. On opening the bodies of many who died, there was not the least appearance of abscess or disease affecting any particular viscus solely, but a most disagreeable foetor, and marks of mortification on every one of the viscera; a sure sign of the universality of the inflammation, and the extreme danger of a disorder, which, as far as appears,

appears, has never been hitherto attended to.

The attenuating powders already mentioned, may be considered as an absolute specific in this disorder, never having failed once to cure, when persevered in, though given to many hundred patients.

C H A P. XV.

T H E S M A L L P O X.

THE small pox, though a disorder not peculiar to this climate, yet having some singular circumstances attending it, remains to be mentioned. This disorder was very rife through in the year * and it made its appearance very early in that year, a circumstance which has been generally observed as a sure sign of the danger and fatality that would attend the disease in the height of summer, and beginning of autumn. The modern practice of inoculation was almost universally pursued, and was attended with very great success. The susceptibility of the habit of imbibing the infection was
very

* The author of this work being in the West-Indies, we cannot supply the words to fill up the blanks.

very remarkable, infomuch that scarce one in an hundred failed of taking the disorder, where the matter was inserted, even in the flightest manner, by only raising the cuticle, without drawing a drop of blood, so that an hour after, the operator himself was at a loss to find the place where the skin had been raised. Some indeed were incapable of receiving the infection, and these were supposed to have had the disorder before. Among them was a man, of four or five and twenty, who having been five times inoculated, as well in this flight way as in the old method of incision, still continued unsusceptible of the infection. These repeated attempts seeming to give the strongest assurance of his having already had the disorder, he was employed as an attendant on some hundreds who were inoculated; and on about thirty who got the small pox in the natural way. Of these last seventeen died, five of them complained at the access of the fever, of intense heat, violent thirst, severe pains in the head and back,

and

and every symptom of the most grievous inflammation ; the small vessels of their eyes were distended with blood, their tongues foul and of a brownish colour ; to these liberal bleeding, and the other evacuations, afforded no relief, nor did they in the least abate the throbbing of the carotid and temporal arteries. Under these circumstances, the second day or early in the third, that is about sixty or sixty-five hours from the access of the fever, the eruption of the small pox began to appear extremely thick over the whole body, accompanied by an universal erisipelas, from which it could scarcely be distinguished.

EVERY antiphlogistic and antiseptic method was tried in vain, the head soon became affected and comatose ; large blisters rose in various parts of the body, replete with a fœtid purulent matter, which smelt abominably, and left on the parts, from which it was discharged, all the marks of approaching mortification and death, which happily for the patients

patients closed the scene on the third or fifth day from the eruption. Every one of these thirty had the small, low, filiquose, cristatose kind of small pox, and those of the most robust habits died on the ninth or eleventh day; the rest of those who died were all on or after the fifteenth day, at which time, when seemingly out of danger, they were seized with a slight fever, and loathing of all kind of sustenance, which no means either by a natural or artificial diarrhœa, or any other methods that were attempted could remove; these died on the 17th, 19th and 21st days, merely from inanition to all appearances, as the fever never rose high, and after death the bodies exhibited, on opening, no signs of putrefaction or mortification.

T H E thirteen who recovered were for many months miserable objects of the cruel ravages of the disorder, as well from the extreme weakness and extenuation of their bodies, as from the fordid ulcers the disease had left.

The

The man already mentioned constantly day and night attended on, and administered the medicines to all these, and though the stench of the effluvia, which arose from the bodies of living, and the still more intolerable one, from those of the dead, were beyond description noxious, he never imbibed the least infection, though the writer narrowly escaped a putrid fever; this was in May. About August he went a journey of about 200 miles on foot, and one day travelling over some burning sands, at high noon when the sun was intensely hot, a shower coming on, he went into a hutt on the road side, which had been erected for the reception of persons ill with the small pox, for shelter; and there instantly received the infection of the disorder of the most virulent kind, from which he did not recover, but by the utmost attention, after large pieces of flesh mortified and fell from various parts of his body, insomuch that it was many months before he could even walk. Such was the state of the disorder that year,
and

and the general practice of inoculation having well nigh eradicated the disorder, and having been attended with such great success, was considered as an insurance against future attacks, or placed them in so light a degree of estimation, that the disease was no longer, as formerly, the object of universal dread and horror.

THE constitution of the air in the year about six years after, gave the clearest marks of the fatal nature of the epidemic diseases of the ensuing year; the mildness of the eastern gales, the marks of ensuing drought, and the want of periodical disorders with which the year generally sets in, when there is no alteration in the constitution of the air, together with the symptoms of putrefaction in the few uncommon disorders that appeared at this period, plainly evinced the nature of the ensuing season.

UNHAPPILY about this time, the small pox was brought from Africa, by the Guinea men, and coming thus early in January, was at first favourable, notwithstanding the air was hotter than generally observed at this season; but this favourable state did not long continue, the intense heat rather daily increasing, and the few showers being either so small or at such distant periods from each other, as rather tended to increase the heat and putrefaction, and with them the danger of the reigning diseases, than to diminish them. About March or April, the small pox became worse every day, except when for a few days now and then, refreshing breezes threw in their salutary aid to resist the putrefaction. About the middle of March, the confluent small pox began, it was in every instance of the cristalline kind, and increased daily in its virulence, becoming more flat, filiquose, immature and dangerous; resisting every method of relief hitherto attempted; but in some degree yielding to early and constant purging,

purging, which by creating an artificial diarrhæa, together with the admission of cold air, saved many; yet such was the perverseness of the patients and their attendants, that frequently, while wedded to antient prejudices, the one set objecting to the medicines, and the others to the method, death settled the dispute. The ferocity of the disease still increasing with the heat, about the latter end of April the putrid infection became joined to the variolous in a very high degree, forming the most infernal combination that ever affected the human frame; here livid and purple spots were interspersed in the few vacant spaces the coherent crystalline small pox had left for them to occupy; these were various in their size and colour from the bigness of the point of a pin to that of a silver penny, and from a deep crimson to absolute blackness; the pulse quick, low and weak, the skin dry, though not very hot, the tongue rough, foul, and covered with a brownish crust, dark at the sides, but still more so in

the middle, the eyes heavy, languid and glassy, thirst intense, severe pains in the back and head, and costiveness. These symptoms hourly increasing, the blood was at length discharged from the different emunctories, coma, subfultus and death ensued. In a few instances, where from a confidence in the practitioner, the antiseptic method was carried to its utmost extent, it was not attended with that success which the opinion of Mead, Huxham, and others would lead us to expect; it would indeed, appear that the most powerful antiseptics internally used, were not, in the conflict, equal to the violence of the disorder; and that applying them externally in tepid baths, was ineffectual, either for want of absorption, or, that the evil done by the communication of heat was superior to the benefit, which might have been derived from the application of the antiseptic ingredients.

IN

IN fact, cold seemed to be the most effectual application, but this was not easily to be procured in a climate, where the thermometer in the day time was seldom lower than 76, and at a season when there was scarce a breath of air stirring, and when the country was almost every afternoon deluged with rain, which fell from the clouds in a perpendicular direction; so that what little breezes there might be in the forenoon, were so much impregnated with the hot and septic vapors, exhaled from the earth by the solar rays, as to become rather pernicious, than refreshing. In this state of dangerous perplexity, an expedient was conceived, of throwing the coldest water that could be got on the patients, and this in the highest and most dangerous state of the fever; and placing them between two doors, where by the artificial draught of air combining with the heat of the body, cold might be produced by the evaporation of the fluid; and this practice which the extreme

treme danger and urgency of the case made necessary, was attended with the most salutary effects, the dangerous symptoms being speedily mitigated, the purple spots disappearing, and the patients recovering, as may be more clearly demonstrated, when the particular diseases of that year are treated of, and the cases recited.

IT is in cases like these where speedy and inevitable death seems approaching, that perhaps the practitioner may be justified in almost any expedient which has the smallest prospect of success; and still more so in the use of those which analogy and philosophical reasoning convince him are truly adapted to the case; but which the fashion of the times and the ignorance and malevolence of the multitude make highly dangerous to his own reputation and future prospects should they fail, however, sure he might be of meeting with candor from the learned, liberal, and ingenuous, who look beyond the surface.

IT

It will at once strike the philosophical reader, that the water was only the vehicle of the cold, and that it therefore required to be repeatedly used as often as the shirt, on which it was thrown became dry, and as the nature and exigency of the case might require.

How far this practice might be of use in other cases, may be a matter of future consideration.

F I N I S.

THE GREAT WALL

It will be some time before the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the

It will be some time before the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the
city will be able to take the

THE GREAT WALL